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THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013

Growing business

Medical marijuana rules changed
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Carter upcycles what he finds
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ENTERTAINMENT

The show goes on

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — Rob Herjavec remembers the excitement of being a child and spending Saturday night at the drive-in with his family.

"I've been coming since I was a kid. It's nice to sit outside with the family under the stars," he said.

The Niagara Falls resident carried on the tradition Saturday night at the Niagara's only drive-in, the Can-View Drive-In on Hwy. 402 near Hwy. 405.

see MOVIES | page 3



SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Pictured from left, Rob Herjavec and his children, Sophia, 3, Niko, 7, Luka, 5, and wife Monica take in a movie at the Can-View Drive-In Saturday night.

Michael Smith
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■ **MEDICAL MARIJUANA:** Government changes rules

growing business

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Marijuana is his medicine.

Without it, he finds it hard to function.

The 38-year-old operations analyst from Welland, who asked that his name not be used, has struggled with severe anxiety and depression since he was a teenager.

Pot, he said, is the only thing that provides relief.

He has used several different medications to try to control his condition, including Ativan, but found that left his mind in a fog.

"I have a job where I need to think and string together a conversation without being all stoned," he said.

His doctor advised him to set up five grams of marijuana a day to help ease his anxiety and depression.

"I find the marijuana doesn't fog the brain," he said. "It has the same calming qualities, but I can still function at work. If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have a job today. It has really allowed me to be a functioning member of society."

But he may not be able to afford it for long.

Currently, a grower licensed by Health Canada sells the man his medication for \$1 a gram, but by April 2014 large-scale legal commercial marijuana grow-ops could set up shop in Niagara and charge \$8 to \$10 a gram.

The Welland man doesn't think he'll be able to afford it and said he will have to try getting it covered under his medical benefits or will buy it on the street when he can.

Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq announced new regulations for the distribution of medical marijuana in early June that will make pot farming a legitimate industry and wipe out home-grow operations.

The federal government introduced the medical marijuana program in 2001 and, at the time, there were fewer than 500 people in Canada growing pot in their homes for medical

use.

Now there are more than 30,000 people authorized to grow weed, according to Health Canada.

A news release from the agency said the increase had "unintended consequences for public health, safety and security as a result of allowing individuals to produce marijuana in their homes."

Under the new regulations, production will no longer take place in homes, but in commercial facilities to beef up public safety.

Niagara Falls MP Rob Nicholson, until recently the minister of justice-attorney general of Canada, said in an e-mail that medical marijuana distribution needs to be more controlled to ensure public safety.

"Our approach balances patient access with public safety. Unfortunately, the system was being abused, and that was having a real impact on public safety. Our government will continue to protect the health and safety of Canadians," he said.

Licensed producers will have to comply with regulations for quality control standards, maintain comprehensive records, inventories of marijuana, and security system to protect against selling it illegally.

They must send marijuana to registered clients through a secure courier, meaning storefronts or retail outlets are not allowed.

Grow-ops must employ a quality assurance worker with "training, experience and technical knowledge."

Plants must be indoors and the site must have restricted access areas, including all areas where a licensed activity is conducted with marijuana.

They must have around-the-clock video-surveillance and employees must have valid security clearance issued by the Ministry of Health.

Both in home and commercial sites will operate until March 31, 2014. After that, Health Canada will no longer produce and sell the marijuana for medical



Supplied photo

Federal Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq announced new regulations for the distribution of medical marijuana in early June that will make pot farming a legitimate industry and wipe out home-grow operations.

purposes.

Port Colborne Ward 4 coun. Barb Butters said she's had a few constituents complain about neighbours who may be applying to grow medical marijuana, but said there's not much the city can do about it if the federal government issue the licence.

"We've asked staff for a report, so we can have the information about the regulations and what we should and shouldn't be doing and how this is going to affect the municipality. We don't have it yet. We expect it back shortly," she said.

She said dealing with pot farms is new territory for municipalities.

"It's legal," she said. "The zoning is appropriate and

(they are) not breaking any rules in doing this."

But Niagara Regional Police and local fire departments don't know how they will deal with the legal grow operations.

NRP Det. Dave Maniaci of the guns gangs and grows unit said specific regulations were sent to his office late July, but they haven't had time to go through it in depth.

He said people are already applying to own the commercial businesses.

"It's my understanding as part of the application process for these commercial locations they have to make notifications to police, municipality and fire," he said. "A handful of people we are aware of to date have made the application."

He said legal grow operations were spread throughout the region, and despite the fact he's happy pot won't continue to be grown in people's home, he's anxious to find out more about the protocols for inspections.

Port Colborne fire prevention officer Mike Rendia said he's heard rumors that Port Colborne residents may have applied, but couldn't confirm who.

He also said fire departments may not have anything to do with the commercialized operations, because if the government deems them agricultural operations it's no longer their realm.

"The fire code exempts farm properties because

of the nature of what they do," he said. "A farm building with not more than one person during normal use and other areas are exempt from the requirements."

Niagara Falls fire Chief Lee Smith said he's confident the properties will be zones commercial because despite the agricultural nature of the business — it's exactly that — a business.

"They will have to comply with electrical requirements and safety to a certain degree, whether it's deemed to be commercial or agricultural," he said.

"We're hoping its deemed commercial."

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■ NEWFOUNDLAND PONIES: Once nearly extinct

Ponies important in Canadian history

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Callie and Chanel are members of a once dying breed.

The three-year-old Newfoundland ponies are two of the less than 400 left in the world.

When Rose Cook and Laura Spies heard the plight of the ponies, they had to help.

After a long search, they bought the pair in May and hauled them to Port Colborne from Cobden, Ont., to raise awareness about the pony and its history.

"They were part of our heritage," Cook said. "People should know more about that and it isn't right what was done to them in Newfoundland."

The ponies originated on the British Isles and were sent to Canada with early settlers. They tilled the fields, pulled carts in mines and hauled fishing lines, kelp or hay.

After industrialization they were set free and eventually residents complained the animals were eating their crops and gardens.

The ponies were rounded up in droves and taken to slaughter houses until their populations were almost eliminated, they were almost

extinct.

Equine breeders in Ontario rescued some and the Canadian government established experimental farms to breed them.

"They have such great personalities," Spies said. "They are an all around great pony. They are hard workers and they are very social. Children used to play with them after they finished their work. The people who settled with them wouldn't have survived without them."

The pair will be touring the fair circuit in Niagara and Hamilton to give people a better idea of the history and importance of the Newfoundland pony.

They will be at the Marshville Heritage Festival from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, Niagara Regional Exhibition from Sept. 14 to 15, Wainfleet Fair from Sept. 20 to 22 and the Ancaster Fair Sept. 19 to 22 and possibly the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto from Nov. 4 to 10.

Fair visitors will be able to pet the ponies and possibly feed them treats.

The Newfoundland pony is a mix of many different breeds and is not yet considered a breed of its own. It is a type of pony, but many breeders, clubs and



Rose Cook will display her rare Newfoundland pony, Callie, at fairs throughout Niagara this fall along with partner, Laura Spies and her Newfoundland pony Chanel.

owners, including Spies and Cook hope that with

more public knowledge of the pony it will gain

status with international organizations.

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MOVIES

Going to drive-in a tradition for most families

FROM PAGE 1

With his three youngsters, Niko, 7, Luka, 5, Sophia 3, and his wife Monica, Herjavec spent the evening munching on popcorn and took in a viewing of *The Smurfs 2*.

With the hatch open on the back of their van, the Herjavecs children rested comfortably in their pajamas and wrapped in blankets in the crisp summer night air.

"I think being able to stay up late is a big part of the excitement for the kids, especially when their bedtime is 8 p.m.," Rob Herjavec said of his children's excitement.

Although Herjavec has been coming to the drive-in at least

once a year since he was a child, this past weekend was the first time he brought his children.

Going to the drive-in is a tradition for many people, drive-in manager Steve Forrest said. He called watching a movie at a drive-in a family activity that carries with it a sense of nostalgia for adults remembering a simpler time.

"I hope we've been able to carry on that tradition. Picture someone being carried in from the van by their father after seeing a movie at the drive-in, and doing it for their own kids when they are older."

The outdoor theatre has been a popular activity during evenings and weekends in

the summer for 30 years in Thorold, Forrest said, adding the allure of the drive-in has yet to fade, even though some people might think it has.

Forrest, who has managed the independently-owned drive-in for 11 years, said movie lovers of all ages come to Can-View to catch a flick.

"We see the same faces every week. There are a lot of families, but it depends on the product, which is very diverse from kids movies to teens movies and adult movies," he said.

Attendance depends on the weather, but on a good night 800 cars come rolling into the outdoor theatre to watch movies on four screens.

Even though there are plenty

of regulars who come to the drive-in, Forrest said being in the movie business isn't easy because the facility doesn't generate much revenue.

Last spring, the Thorold drive-in switched from 35 mm film to an all-digital format. The change came with a \$500,000 price tag for the drive-in. Although he isn't sure, Forrest said he believes if not all, most theatres, will be required to go digital by the end of next year.

The drive-in season is short and 80% of the drive-in's revenue is generated during July and August when students aren't in school.

Forrest said there is an incentive program offered through movie studios that will

give a portion of the funds back to movie theatres over the next decade for upgrading from film to digital.

"Going digital is cheaper than film and because the studios are saving so much money. It remains yet to be seen how much anyone will get back," he said.

The benefits to going digital are noticeable because movies shot digitally have a clear, brighter picture with no cracks, or pops and the images don't jump out of the frame.

But sometimes Forrest misses having to thread a film onto a reel. To be a film projectionist required a licence to properly be educated in how to run projectors and handle film.

"I knew what they [projectionists] sounded like, I knew what they smelled like and I could instantly tell if something wasn't working right."

But a lot has changed with the digital age, Forrest said, and admitted some of his staff who have grown up with technology are better equipped to handle a malfunction with a DVD player.

"Now being digital, the younger staff are more qualified to be up there than me."

As long as the drive-in continues to draw crowds, Forrest said the film will continue to roll onto the screen, even if it's in a different format.

Now, pass the popcorn.

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■ ourview

Tories' woes might tempt election call

The perfect election storm is brewing. Take Internal conflict within the Progressive Conservative party. Add a Tory contempt motion that could cause gridlock when the legislature returns next month.

Throw in a Liberal Party smarting from losing three seats in by-elections and who are nervously watching the NDP under Andrea Horwath steadily grow in popularity.

It could mean we go to the polls sooner rather than later. Premier Kathleen Wynne could ask Lt.-Gov. David O'Neil to disperse the legislature, saying the Tory tactics are making the province ungovernable. The Liberals could ambush the PCs while they're dealing with internal squabbles.

Wynne dismissed election speculation last week.

Tory Leader Tim Hudak is facing a revolt from within, although I'm hearing the leadership review is unlikely to get support from the party's executive. Key caucus members such as Whitty-Oshawa MPP Christine Elliott and Thornhill's Peter Sturman are speaking out on the folly of creating schisms within the party right now.

Sturman told us that dissent would be like "taking a gun and aiming at your foot."

"It doesn't make sense that a dozen or so party members decide you're going to hold a leadership vote at a time when there's an imminent election," he said.

Elliott says while people are disappointed in the by-election outcomes, the party needs to rally behind Hudak.

"We need to make sure we're ready for the next election with a strong and united team," she said.

Even Carleton-Mississippi Mills maverick Jack MacLaren is supporting Hudak.

The September Tory bunfight renegades hope to crash was supposed to be a policy convention, crucial to the party platform. The lesson many Tory insiders are taking from the by-elections is that voters are moving to the centre-left and they want their platform massaged away from some of the hard-right policies they'd mulled earlier. Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees, who was portrayed in earlier reports, as supporting the leadership review, says he backs his leader. He says it's "grossly unfair" to suggest he's running for the leadership or is undermining Hudak.

September, the auditor general will release a report on the costs associated with scrapping the Oakville power plant. Liberals might well decide to pull the plug early to save themselves more embarrassment. Liberals have their own organizational problems as demonstrated in the by-elections.

The only party sitting pretty is the NDP.

Now that's a scary thought.

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■ COLUMN

With age should come respect

Recently I had a birthday and I'd like to take a moment to thank those readers who took the time to send me a note or a card, all expressing some very sincere cheap shots.

The "I respect you, as I do all my elders" from the retired teacher was not the lowest blow I took, but one of the few that was printable.

And "A wise man once said, don't count your years, make your years count."

Doesn't anybody buy nice birthday cards anymore? At what point did the publishers of birthday cards decide that they should convey a message sure to make you feel lower than the flat tire on a pick-up truck in a country and western song? It's like somewhere along the line Hallmark was a victim of a hostile takeover by the Don Rickles Corporation. And as insults go, they're very expensive.

I had a lousy birthday, thank you. I received a cake with a grain of smoldering twigs on top. I received a card from John Grant had a birthday only a few weeks before mine, depleting the world supply of wax.

(Please when it comes to delivering the cheap shots, leave it to a licensed professional.)

I never thought of myself as old until I was sitting on my breakfast one evening at sunset, having a drink with a friend when she said, "enough is enough." It's going to be chilly tonight."

To which I said, "enthusiastically." "Yeah, it'll be a good night for sleeping."

Then I quickly jerked my head around to see who the doctor was that said that.

A good night for sleeping?! Old people say things like that.

People named Sully and Myrtle whose lives revolve around sweet corn say things like that. These are people who overuse the word my, as in "I gotta have my morning coffee" and "I gotta get my eight hours." It wasn't that long ago that a good night for me was when I got home too late to



WILLIAM THOMAS

HUMOUR

do any sleeping. Now here I am at sunset, looking forward to eight or nine hours of unconsciousness, if it might be a lot of fun.

I must admit, I kind of redeemed myself a few hours later and pulled myself out of the funk. This actually happened. I had smoked a turkey all day, but when the guests arrived around eight, the butterball still wasn't done. So the cocktail hour stretched to two and I was out by the shed, feeding hickory sticks into the smoker, when one of the women came by and asked, "Do you mind if I take a peek at a bird?"

"Hey c'mon, hardly know you" I said and felt so wonderfully young and immature again. Hey, you can find new friends anywhere, even at the bus station. But how often do you get a chance to relive a moment of ill-spent youth?

As you might have guessed, I've reached an attitude plateau in my life, a crossroads of the currents of age. And I'm very frustrated, like a centipede with athlete's foot or a beaver with gingivitis.

"I'm definitely too old to be a smart-ass. Taking flying leaps at rolling doughnuts is a job for somebody younger, somebody who doesn't have to lec his lower back every time he chases a Jehovah Witness down the driveway."

By definition, I'm not sure I've made it to curmudgeon yet. To be a real curmudgeon, you have to impersonate the late Andy Rooney, growling and jowling at anybody under fifty and everything that makes you irregular. Andy delivering his whiney rant on 60 Minutes always looked like his shorts were way too tight.

I'm like this close to walking into a room and forgetting why I

did so.

There was a time when I believed I'd take my life before I started a sentence with "Why, when I was your age kid..." But, but I'm there now and I'll tell ya; yeah, when I was your age kid, I knew the basic theory behind the baseball cap. It was invented as a practical head shield designed with the peak to be worn in the front to keep the sun out of your eyes and the bird droppings off your nose? Back then you only wore a ball cap backwards to make a catcher's mask fit.

Why when I was your age kid, I wore my clothes a little loose for comfort. But today you kids wear your clothes so baggy it looks like you're trying to conceal gross and unsightly things, namely other kids.

When we mooned people back then, it was intentional not some unfortunate wardrobe malfunction.

And colours? You kids are wearing clothes so bright you're giving your parents acid flashbacks. Sure we wore tie-dyed and psychedelic colours when I was a kid, but we also smoked dope so none of us actually noticed how ridiculous we looked.

Hip? You think you're hip? You don't know hip until you're talking the benefits of titanium versus ceramic.

And kid, do not sass me when I yell "Hey! Get off my lawn!" So what if we're both standing side-by-side buying Surfers 7-Eleven. I'm old. Show me some respect.

I wouldn't say my advancing age has suddenly changed my perspective on kids, but I'm not even speaking to my niece and nephew.

For years, they came to me with questions on history, which I answered eagerly, assuming their mother had told them I'd majored in the subject.

Now I find out they knew the answers all along - they just wanted to hear from an eyewitness.

www.williamthomas.ca

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Agreeing with Rankin

Just a few words in regard to two recent letters to the editor re: Mr. Tom Rankin's presentation at the August Regional Council meeting. One correspondent denied Mr. Rankin's assumption that the anti-wind farm lobby is just "a few naysayers." When put into perspective, Mr. Rankin is spot on. The wind farm opponents will publicize the fact that they attract 100 to 150 supporters at their meetings and demonstrations and that at these meetings the Wainfleet group is joined by supporters from West Lincoln and visa versa. With a population of 6,356 (2011 census), and even if all of the 150 people are from Wainfleet, that works out to 2.5% of the population, hardly a roaring groundswell of 1,000 strong. Even if you take into consideration the fact the census includes everyone

in a household and take that number and divide it by four (the average number of people in a household) and assuming that only one member of the household cares, that percentage only grows to 9%, still not an overwhelming majority. In the case of West Lincoln, the percentages are drastically lower at 1%, and 5%, respectively. Given these numbers, it tells me that more than 90% of the population is either in favour of wind farms, or just doesn't care one way or the other.

Another point put forward by the other correspondent had to do with the fact these gigantic blades will need replacement. That may be so in 50 or 60 years, although I doubt it. If you consider the fact there are WWII-era airplanes still flying that were built from the aluminum of the

day, and consider the improvement in the quality of the aluminum of today and the protective coating applied to the blades of the turbines, they should outlast the lifetime of a few naysayers. As to the "tons of fossil fuels" needed to locate them, that would be true only if the developers were using coal for the roadbeds, which I doubt they are doing. If she is referring to the energy used for manufacture and transportation, those tons of fossil fuels, if used elsewhere, would not generate 0.001% of the energy generated by one wind turbine over its lifetime. And as far as mass exodus by families leaving their beloved homes, I have yet to see any abandoned homes in the vicinity of any wind turbine farms built to date.

see LETTERS | page 6

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Reader questions blackout anniversary story

FROM PAGE 5

As far as getting involved and doing the research, I have, but

I haven't based my opinion on subscriber sites such as Wikipedia, where anyone can submit statistics

without proof of authenticity.

Jim Bray
Port Colborne

On blackouts and cement

moratorium on any future onshore industrial wind energy project in the UK.

A recent report regarding Europe's growing disenchantment with wind (and solar) energy should be required reading for all of our municipal politicians before they commit too much more of our tax dollars, through subsidies, to industries that are now seen to be a huge economic disaster throughout Europe without a single environmental or energy benefit in return.

Europe now has a new and growing group of citizens living in "energy poverty." More and more homeowners can no longer afford to pay their hydro bills. There are countries refusing to buy cheap excess wind energy from neighbours because the unreliability negatively affects their own energy supplies. Energy rationing, brown-outs and even blackouts are no longer a question of when in parts of Europe, rather a question of how soon and how frequently?

Ontario's green energy policies have already given our children an economic and environmental nightmare they will have to fix. It makes no sense to continue to add to it.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

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■ BUSINESS

Concrete company considering Port

DAVE JOHNSON
InPortNews Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A precast concrete manufacturing company is considering making a big investment in the lakeside city.

Mayor Vance Badawey offered up few details last week about the German company interested in constructing a plant at Port Colborne Quarries near Second Concession and Chippawa Rd.

"This is a considerable investment with a lot of new jobs and a new of new assessments attached to it," he said following the council

meeting.

The mayor, along with the city's economic development office, has been conversing with the company for more than a year in hopes Port Colborne would be chosen as its new home.

The company, whose name has not been released, hasn't decided where it will set up shop, but a final decision is expected to be made by the end of the month.

Port Colborne Quarries Ltd. filed an application on July 24 to see its property rezoned light industrial to permit a precast concrete manufacturing facility that would be

operated by the third party company.

A special public meeting was scheduled this week to discuss the rezoning application.

In advance of that meeting, with the company expected to soon make its decision, city council approved in-principle the use for the property Monday night.

After extensive discussions with the city's planning department, it was determined "This is a compatible use" for the property, said chief administrative officer Bob Heil.

"Tonight is not about the

zoning application, but about the use (of the property). Is it a reasonable use to make cement in a quarry? Yes."

Badawey said that while the recommendation to approve the use in principle was unconventional, it may provide the level of comfort the company's board of directors needs to give Port Colborne the green light.

"It is a bit unorthodox, but sometimes in business you need to be a bit unorthodox to get a positive decision," he said.

"Sometimes you need to bend, to be flexible with protocols to send a positive mes-



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

A truck carrying stone from the newest section of Port Colborne Quarries heads toward the plant as an empty truck heads to pick up a load.

sage that the city is open for business."

Dave Elliott raised concern over approving the use in principle prior to public consultation.

"I hate to give the impression that this decision is made in stone tonight," said the Ward 1 councillor, who wanted to ensure residents understand they still have a voice.

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■ **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Raises to be given out in increments

Regional police receive three-year deal

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Regional Police will receive three years of raises step by step in the service's first negotiated contract since 2005.

A new three-year contract was ratified by the Niagara Police Services Board and Niagara Region Police Association Aug. 8 and 15 respectively. Police in Niagara will get a 2.5% raise this

year and 2.5% in 2014 and 2015. But it will be broken into six-month intervals to help Niagara Region save money.

"There was movement on both sides, which allowed us to realize a fair and equitable contract for our members," said police association president Cliff Priest.

He said the contract was welcome because it's only the second time this decade the board and the union have been



Priest

able to negotiate a deal. The last contract went to an arbitrator.

"My membership is very pleased that we were able, for once, to negotiate a contract instead of having to go to arbitration," he said, noting arbitration



D'Angela

is pricey on all sides.

The new contract affects 697 uniform members and 301 civilian members of the police service.

Police board chair Henry D'Angela said the contract allows for cross-district deployment. That means if one of Niagara's police districts is short an officer, another can be transferred from a different district, avoiding the need to call someone to work overtime.

He said the split raises will save the Region money. Officers will get 1.4% retroactive to Jan. 1 of this year, 1.2% retroactive to July 1, 1.4% in January 2014, 1.1% in July 2014, 1.3% in January 2015 and 1.2% in July 2015.

"It's the lowest that we've seen in 10 years. We're quite pleased to

get it to that situation," D'Angela said.

He said the board was glad not to go to arbitration.

"We just didn't want to head down that road after an arbitrated settlement just a couple of months ago."

Arguing the previous arbitration, he said, cost the board \$400,000.

"At the end of the day, these numbers are really reasonable compared to what's out there," D'Angela said.

Priest said the contract brings Niagara police closer to wage parity with their peers in other jurisdictions.

"We're still not there," he said.

D'Angela said, "When you do look at some of the other numbers that have come in, ours are a little lower. We're quite pleased with that."

jeff.bolichowski@surmedia.ca
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■ **LIVING HISTORY:** Tree in Pelham

Comfort Maple is older than Canada

VICTORIA GRAY
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — The maple tree is an iconic piece of Canadiana, and Pelham is home to the oldest living maple tree in the country.

At 500 years old, the Comfort Maple is a sugar maple tree that stands more than 30 metres and is around four metres in circumference.

But, it's a well-hidden behemoth. It's nestled between three farm fields and the only access to it is a small gravel lane off of Mettler Rd. between Balfour St. and Centre St.

Niagara Region Conservation Authority director of communications Mary Stack said despite its easily-missed location, thousands of people from all over the world seek it out yearly.

"It's a magnificent sight," she said. "People come here to get their wedding photographs taken, have picnics, and kids come to hug it. It's a really neat thing."

Stack admits there's no proof of the tree's real age. In 1975, the tree's age was estimated by judging its height and circumference.

"They didn't want to dig into the tree because they might damage it

and they didn't want to risk that," she said.

The tree has been through a lot in its lifetime. In the 1960s, it was struck by lightning and split down the middle. A company used concrete blocks to successfully stabilize half the tree.

"If this tree could talk, the stories it could tell you," Stack said.

Today the tree is healthy and continues to grow and change with the seasons. Many of its branches are held up with metal wire to ensure they don't fall off, but it doesn't take much to maintain the tree.

Stack said that conservation



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Director of communications for the Niagara Conservation Authority Mary Stack makes the giant The Comfort Maple in Pelham look small.

authority employees will visit it once a week to make sure every-

thing is in order and the tree has enough water. They'll also stop by when bad storms are expected or happening.

The Comfort family gave the tree and the land it's on to the conservation authority in 1961 because, Stack said, they knew the tree was special. The land was originally crown land given to Laura Secord's family, who sold it to the Comforts in 1816.

The Comforts still hold family reunions there.

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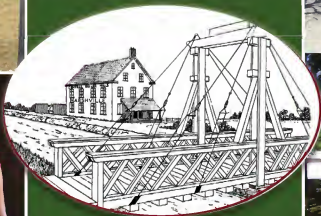
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GUNS, DRUGS SEIZED

PORT COLBORNE — Niagara Regional Police found two guns and illegal substances with an estimated street value of more than \$10,000 Sunday. Police responded to a call on Kilgaly St. E. and arrested a 25-year-old man. They investigated further and a

search warrant was issued. Police said they found methamphetamine with an estimated street value of more than \$9,000, marijuana with an estimated street value of \$800, a .22-calibre rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun. Robert Gagne is charged with assault with a weapon and two counts of possession of a controlled substance.



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Management for superficial fungal infections involves some simple non-drug methods, and over-the-counter remedies in the form of sprays lotions and creams. Affected individuals should try to reduce moisture in the affected area. Loose-fitted clothing made of cotton or material that absorbs moisture should be worn. The skin should be dried completely before covering with clothing. If the infection involves the feet, flip flops should be worn with bare feet to prevent spread to others and reinfection.

There are also many topical antifungal agents available. Examples include CANESTEN CREAM (clotrimazole), NIZORAL SHAMPOO (ketoconazole), and MONISTAT-DERM (miconazole), to name a few. Creams and solutions are useful because they can be rubbed into the area. Solutions work in hairy areas because they are easier to apply. Powders can serve as useful additions to creams and solutions. They are helpful when the infection is wet or oozing, or where a drying agent is needed. When applying the antifungal product it should be applied to the lesion as well as one to two inches around the lesion. The antifungal should also be used for one to two weeks after lesions clear to reduce the rate of recurrence.

Patients who have diabetes, or those who are immunosuppressed may need prescription oral therapy. It is best for your doctor to assess these fungal infections. Fungal infections of the nail are also resistant to over-the-counter treatment.

There are some home remedies for treating nail fungus. Patients have tried applying VICKS VAPORUB and tea tree oil. There is not a lot of evidence to suggest the efficacy of these products for this condition, however some people may wish to try them before resorting to an oral medication.

If you think you may be affected by a fungal infection there are a number of treatment options available. Most issues can be resolved with some persistence and the proper product. Please speak to your pharmacist about what option is best for you.

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Nominations being sought for Welland Arts and Culture Awards in September

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Has a local artist ever left you in awe?

Do you know someone whose talent shines brightly in the community?

The City of Welland is hosting its third annual Arts and Culture Awards on Sunday, Sept. 29 and is seeking nominees.

Nominations have been open for more than a month and no entries have been received.

"These awards, even though they're relatively new, are important to the community because they recognize the arts and culture in Welland," said arts and culture co-ordinator Jessica Duliban.

"There are a lot of very talented people in Welland who should be rewarded."

The deadline to submit a nomination is Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 10 p.m. Applications are available from and may be dropped off at Welland Community Wellness Complex. They are also available at

Welland Civic Square and at www.welland.ca.

For more information, call Duliban at 905-735-1700, ext. 4012.

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SHOW OPENING: Arts Place Gallery



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Douglas Carter's upcycled art will be on display in The Boat Show III at Arts Place Gallery on King St. in Port Colborne until September 15.

Found items made into art

VICTORIA GRAY
Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Douglas Carter collects cultural debris.

He can't stop. Everywhere he goes he finds something he needs to take home.

Reflective items are the best.

"I like adding them to wall pieces," he said. "There's nothing like a broken CD to cast light all around the room."

The Port Colborne artist upcycles things he finds on the beach, on the streets and anywhere else. He assembles them into

both flat pieces and sculptures.

His latest collection, called The Boat Show III, is on display at Arts Place Gallery, 714 King St. until Saturday, September 15.

The official opening of the show takes place at the gallery on Sunday, August 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

"For this project I decided to interpret what I was seeing through found materials, — beach debris and paint," he said.

see ART| page 17

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■ ART

Living in Port Colborne provides artist with plenty of inspiration

FROM PAGE 16

He said the visual impact of living in the lakeside city has influenced his art and given him a lot of inspiration.

"You can hear and see the boats go by most of the year and it's just great," he said.

It took him three years to gather the cultural debris nec-

essary to complete the show, but the finished gallery has about eight boat sculptures and more than 10 paintings.

He likes to put his pieces

outside when they are complete and leaves them there for a few months to give them a more authentic feel.

"It gets rid of the shine and

newness of the paint. It goes with the material better."

He's intentionally keeping the price of his work down so more people can afford to own

original art.

"I'd rather be in someone's home or studio than sitting in my studio — or rather my garage," he said.

In The NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEFF MILLEJOURS (STORE MANAGER) AND STAFF AT FOOD BASICS PORT COLBORNE ON WINNING THE CUSTOMER PROMISE AWARD.

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■ **SHOWBOAT:** Lighthouse Theatre

Local theatre is important

ALLISON SMITH
For The Tribune

PORT COLBORNE — Showboat Festival Theatre may have a glimmer of hope in Port Dover's Lighthouse Theatre.

A push is on to make sure the community theatre in Port Colborne is around for current and future are lovers to enjoy. Port Dover's Lighthouse Festival Theatre is bringing four of its six plays of the 2013 season to Showboat.

"We're treating Showboat like the sister theatre to Lighthouse," said Derek Ritschel, artistic director at Lighthouse. The theatres' boards of directors have aligned and Lighthouse's management began operating Showboat in April. It will share its resources and actors with Showboat in an effort

to breathe new life into the theatre.

In fall of 2012, Showboat Festival Theatre's board of directors announced the 250-seat theatre, which is housed at Roselawn Centre, would cease operations due to financial difficulties.

Ritschel and his colleagues were sad to hear of Showboat's impending closure. Community theatres across Canada are folding. Showboat is one of only 25 professional summer theatres in Ontario.

Local theatres are an important part of the fabric of a community, he said, adding he hopes to help save the theatre and preserve a piece of Ontario's artistic culture.

His involvement in the partnership between the two theatres began when William Thomas, creator



Derek Ritschel, artistic director of Port Dover's Lighthouse Festival Theatre, poses outside Showboat Festival Theatre in Port Colborne.

and host of the popular Readings at the Roselawn, called to request he take a

look at the theatre and its financial condition. Ritschel and his business partner,

ALLISON SMITH Tribune Photo

administrative director Helen Wagenaar, were eager to offer their assistance.

"We wanted to see, can we do this? Can we save the theatre?" said Ritschel. "We feel passionate about it. It was worth the risk."

Lighthouse is known as Ontario's leading summer stock theatre and has seen great success in Port Dover. The 350-seat theatre welcomes just under 4,000 people annually to its shows.

The partnership is yielding great creative opportunities and will give Ritschel and his fellow artists the chance to explore and expand their potential. There are what he calls "real creative opportunities" — Showboat Theatre boasts an intimate, smaller stage than Lighthouse's — but he said he's excited to "figure out new and interesting ways to make it work."

see **THEATRE** | page 19

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■ THEATRE

Director confident Showboat will be successful

FROM PAGE 18

Ritschel is confident that Lighthouse's formula for success can rejuvenate Showboat.

"At Lighthouse, we know who's the most important part of the equation for that theatre. That's the audience. We're always listening to our audience, always adapting, always focusing on their entertainment."

Lighthouse is proudly

Canadian — its playwrights, actors, designers and technicians hail from across the country. Showboat has previously had an international payroll but will now showcase Canadian work.

Providing a high-caliber level of entertainment at every show, and providing value for the audience's dollar is key, he said, adding he aims to engage the community and inspire a sense of excitement in patrons about

their local theatre.

So far, the revitalization of Showboat is receiving an enthusiastic response from the community. Two comedies started the season. Henry & Alice into the Wild, written by Michele Rinn, launched the season in June, followed by Sarah Quirk's Knicker! A Brief Comedy in July.

The next plays to welcome audiences to Showboat will include The 39 Steps, an adventure comedy and clas-

sic Canadian spy tale by playwright Patrick Barlow that starts on August 18, and On a First Name Basis, a comedy by Canada's most-produced playwright, Norm Foster, that starts August 25. As Showboat's season runs from June to August, while Lighthouse's stretches from May to September, two plays including Dear Johnny Deere and You Give Me Fever will not run on Showboat's stage. But he's confident that the four

coming to Port Colborne this season will be crowd pleasers.

Ritschel shares the credit for Lighthouse's success with his colleagues and the artists who bring the plays to life.

"People really do appreciate Canadian artists. I think they always did," he said. "The feeling you get from the audience is a sense of pride in their theatre. They love this place."

He added that feeling is one of the most rewarding for

Lighthouse management, and that Port Colborne's audience base is knowledgeable and savvy.

Subscriptions consist of one ticket per show and cost \$100, while single tickets are \$31 for adults, \$28 for seniors or matinee performances, and \$25 for students and groups. They can be purchased at the box office at 286 Fielden Avenue in Port Colborne or by contacting the theatre at 905-834-0833.



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■ REUNION

The good old days at The Cove

VICTORIA GRAY
Tribune Staff

WAINFLEET — The Cove is still alive in the hearts of Niagara's love children.

A fire destroyed the home away from home on Aug. 31, 1970, but many of the Long Beach night club's patrons have never forgotten the rush and fun times they had there.

Gary Reeves, the club's former owner, said many people talk about the club like they had listened to a band there the night before.

"It was a real happening place," he said. "The kids

loved it and a lot of marriages came out of there, too. Canadians marrying Americans and so on. There were a lot of memories. I think the kids were more upset when it burned down than I was. They were devastated."

On the 40th anniversary of the fire, Reeves and Joe White went the old Cove gang to reunite for a night of music and laughter at Rockin' at the Cove at the Crystal Ridge Centre in Ridgeway on Saturday, Aug. 31.

Reeves bought the night-club in 1966 and spent months working 20 hour days

fixing up the building that used to be a ballroom dance club, called the Long Beach Ball Room.

Reeves, then 30-years-old, worked at Atlas Steel from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. then fixed up the club until 1 a.m. every weekday to turn it into a nautical-themed masterpiece.

"We had it all," he said. "We had fish nets on the walls and a raised dance floor and the nets that hung down on the dance floor were painted fluorescent so they glowed in the black light."

The club attracted bands like, Guess Who, Spencer Davis, Magic Circus and

more.

The Guess Who played The Cove several times and once told Reeves he had "the grooviest place in Canada."

"The kids had a lot of fun, but we ran a tight ship," he said.

Reeves went to great lengths to ensure the club was drug and gang free, so patrons would be safe.

A Guess Who cover band, No Sugar Tonight, will headline the reunion show with The British Invasion Band. Reeves will be there sharing his memories of the bar and looking forward to hearing patrons stories.



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Gary Reeves is getting The Cove's old gang together for a night of fun and memories.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$20 and are available at the Country Kettle and Grill Restaurant in Port Colborne.

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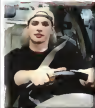
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SARAH FERGUSON Staff Photo
Five skaters from the Niagara Centre Skating Club competed at the Skating Club of Western New York. Pictured from left are skaters Christy Mengemann, Meghan Good, Caitlyn Bergeron, Coranne McKinnion and Jillian Nadeau.

■ FIGURE SKATING

Skaters receive top honours

InPort New Staff

WELLAND — Five skaters from the Niagara Centre Skating Club returned from a competition held recently at the Skating Club of Western New York with a handful of honours.

Caitlyn Bergeron took top honours with first place in spins, jumps, compulsory move and footwork.

Coranne McKinnion also

earned first in compulsory moves, and took third in spins.

Daley Good earned second in compulsory moves and jumps and took fifth in group.

Christy Mengemann earned second place in spins, third place in jumps and fifth in group competition, followed by Jillian Nadeau who won third in compulsory moves and fifth in group competition.

The five Niagara skaters earned 11 out of 42 club points.

The winter session is gearing up at the Niagara Centre club and will be holding registration at Aug. 21 at Pelham arena from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Aug. 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Port Colborne Arena and Sept. 14 at the Welland Community Wellness Complex from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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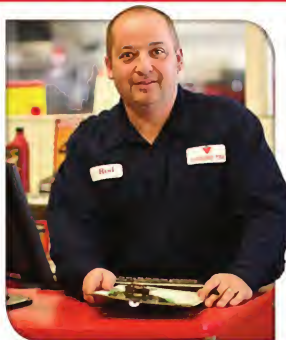
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